GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2275
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
LONG DISTANCE CHARGES
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directedthe Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to pass on the benefits of reduced long distance charges to private basic and cellular operators;

(b) if so, the reaction of the BSNL thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Implementation of the said decision of TRAI would result in hugerevenue loss to BSNL. The benefits of concessional STD charges to the customers of private basic and cellular operators will be even beyond the prescribed distances for BSNL`s own customers and will, thus, result in discrimination. BSNL, therefore, filed an appeal against the said decision of the TRAI before Hon`ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) who has stayed the implementation of the decision of TRAI till further orders.

(C) No action required in view of (b) above.